

MAR 1948

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DOS review completed

GENERAL

1. Italy will not enter western European union now---According to US Ambassador Dunn in Rome, Premier De Gasperi thinks that Italy's participation in the Brussels five-power agreement would be inadvisable at present because of the impending Italian elections and the lack of a qualified Italian parliament. De Gasperi expressed his approval of the agreement and the hope that Italy might eventually become a party to it.

(CIA Comment: The present Italian assembly is not a "qualified parliament" because it was elected provisionally, for the purpose of drawing up an Italian constitution. In deciding that it is not advisable to join the western European union prior to the Italian elections, De Gasperi probably is largely influenced by the widespread fear among the Italian people that any military alliances may result in Italy's becoming once again a battleground.)

2. Turks fear war may be imminent---US Ambassador Wilson in Ankara reports that Secretary General Carim of the Turkish Foreign Office is "deeply pessimistic" over the international situation. Carim fears that the USSR is prepared to begin open war at any time and that the initial attack might be directed against Turkey. According to Wilson, Carim reasons that in view of the hardening attitude of the western democracies, the USSR will be relatively weaker a year hence and would therefore gain by precipitating action now. Carim believes that the Soviet armies would quickly over-run western Europe and the Middle East.

(CIA Comment: CIA does not believe that the USSR plans a military venture in the immediate future in either Europe or the Middle East.)

EUROPE

3. GREECE: French MA predicts offensive from Albania soon---US Ambassador Caffery in Paris transmits a report that the

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French Military Attache in Belgrade has observed "important military preparations" during a recent trip to Albania and has concluded that military operations on the Greek-Albanian frontier will begin in the near future. The French MA also reported the enlargement of partisan training camps, the formation of new combat units, the movement of heavy truck traffic toward the south, and the presence of about 100 Soviet doctors and surgeons in Tirana (Albania).

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs with this estimate of the possibility of such an attack, which would be timed to precede the Greek Army's spring offensive and to take place before US aid can become effective.)

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